# *Real Estate Support to Katrina & Rita Recovery Operation Blue Roof*


*by*

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# Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

- Missions exceeding local capability were tasked to the Corps by FEMA
- In Louisiana, office space was leased in Baton Rouge & Lake Charles to conduct recovery efforts
  - Louisiana Recovery Field Office (LA-RFO)
  - Emergency Field Office – West (EFO-W)

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# LA RFO

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# Operation Blue Roof

- In Louisiana, Operation Blue Roof provides a free temporary roof to residential structures, schools, daycares and all publicly owned facilities
- Temporary roofs (plastic sheeting) allows occupants to return and remain in homes and facilities
- Provides short term relief until the owner can make permanent repairs.
- Must visit a ROE Collection Center, or call the Operation Blue Roof Call-In Center, to obtain a Right of Entry Form

# ROE Collection Centers

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**ROE Collection Centers set up in**

- **Schools**
- **Fire Stations**
- **Police Stations**
- **Churches**
- **Libraries**
- **Disaster Recovery Centers (FEMA, SBA, other agencies providing assistance to hurricane victims)**

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# ROE Collection Center

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# Sulfur Fire Department

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# Moss Bluff Church

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# Disaster Relief Center

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# West Louisiana Group

# ROE Collection Centers

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- 33 Centers in 18 Parishes (counties)
- When centers first opened some took applications (ROEs) from over 600 individuals a day (classroom style)
- 40+ Realty Specialists assigned to different collection centers to take applications

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**ESTIMATED QUANTITY:**
**QA Inspector** _____
Print Name/Date

**Use ball point or roller ball pens:**

| SITUATION CODES | |
|---|---|
| DSQ | Disqualified |
| WC | Work Complete |
| OS | Out of Scope |
| BR | Beyond Repair |
| DO | Done by Others |
| SN | Special Needs |
| SRR | Small Roof Repair |

ROE No._____

**SITUATION CODE DESCRIPTION:**

**FINAL QUANTITY:**
Plastic Sheeting: _____SF
2 X 4 X _____LF :Plywood: _____SF
Small Roof Repair_____ SF

**Print and sign name(s):**
**Final QA Inspector:** _____
Print Name/Signature/Date
**Final Contractor Rep:** _____
Print Name/Signature/Date

**GPS Location:** _____

## RIGHT-OF-ENTRY FOR TEMPORARY ROOFING/REPAIRS

Incident or Disaster_____

The undersigned, hereinafter called the Owner, hereby grants the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (the "Government"), and its independent contractors, a **right-of-entry (ROE)** upon the real estate described as follows (the "Property") located in

_____ County/Municipality, and described as:(Address)_____.

1. **Time Period:** The ROE is shall expire on [date] _____, unless sooner canceled.
2. **Repairs Authorized:** The ROE is authorized for the sole purpose of allowing inspection and/or temporary repairs to the Property, including but not limited to plastic roofing. Owner consents that the Government, its employees, agents, contractors and/or representatives shall, in their sole discretion, determine the extent of the roof damaged and temporary roof coverage required at the time of installation.
3. **Disclosure of Roofing Policies:** By signing this ROE, Owner acknowledges that the following policies shall apply concerning the installation of plastic roofing on Owner's property:
   a. Plastic roofing installation provides temporary repair for severely damaged roofs. The plastic may not provide a watertight seal nor does it guarantee a habitable structure. Leaking at the nail holes is to be expected. Any leaking of the roof after installation is considered maintenance and is the sole responsibility of the homeowner.
   b. The life of the plastic roofing is dependent on weather conditions and may be as little as 30 days. Plastic roofing will be installed with multiple wood furring strips with multiple nails to the existing roof in order to secure the plastic which will harm shingles and roofing beneath.
   c. The plastic roofing material becomes the property of the homeowner after installation.
4. **Cancellation:** Owner may cancel this ROE only by obtaining the signature of an authorized Government representative on the reverse of this form. Owner acknowledges that cancellation may take 7-10 days to process.
5. **Waiver of Liability:** The Owner acknowledges that the Government's decisions on when, where, and how to provide disaster relief to Owner's property are discretionary functions, and recognizes that 42 USC § 5148 states: "The Federal Government shall not be liable for any claim based upon the exercise or performance of or the failure to exercise or perform a discretionary function or duty on the part of a Federal agency or an employee of the Federal Government in carrying out the provisions of this chapter." ***Owner further releases and agrees to hold and save harmless the Government from any and all liability, damage, or loss whatsoever that may be occasioned by or through negligence*** *of the Government, its employees, agents, contractors and/or representatives.*
6. **Miscellaneous:** The right-of-entry includes the right of ingress and egress on other lands of the Owner not described below, provided such ingress and egress is necessary and not otherwise conveniently available to the Government. All tools, equipment, and other property taken upon or placed upon the property by the Government shall remain the property of the Government and may be removed by the Government at any time within a reasonable period after the expiration of this ROE.
7. **Privacy Act Statement:** Owner acknowledges receipt of the Privacy Act statement shown on the reverse of this form and consents to release of the information contained herein in accordance with the purposes therein stated.

**By signing this document, I certify under penalty of perjury that I am the owner of this property and/or that the owner has specifically authorized me to sign this right of entry (ROE) on his/her behalf:**

_____ _____
Owner Signature (Date)
_____
Print Name
_____
Mailing Address/City/State/Zip
_____
Phone

ENG Form 1528 (Revised CESAJ-RE Date)

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# BLUE ROOF PROGRAM

**THESE DO NOT QUALIFY:**
COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS
FLAT ROOFS
TILE/SLATE ROOFS
METAL ROOFS

**BUILDINGS MUST:**
Have 50% or less of the roof decking damaged
Have 50% or less of the supporting structure damaged
Be Structurally Sound & Safely Accessed
Have Trees Removed From Structure

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# Operation Blue Roof

Operation Blue Roof is a FEMA-assigned mission of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, that provides temporary repairs to roofs damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Corps contractors will install the temporary roof covering at ***NO COST TO YOU.***

To get the help, homeowners must sign a "Right of Entry" form that allows Corps staff to assess roof damage and the Corps contractors to do the work. Installation will be done at the earliest possible date.

**For the latest information on locations, dates and hours to sign a "Right of Entry" please call toll free**

## 1-888-ROOF-BLU (1-888-766-3258)

Locations are subject to change. Please call the toll free number before visiting a site to confirm the location.

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The Corps of Engineers is committed to helping you and your community. We will work to protect you and your family from further harm by the elements. Your security, safety and peace of mind are our priority. Please allow us the opportunity to be of assistance.

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# Daily Routine

- RE Team met every morning at 0600 hours,
  - Forum for sharing lessons learned daily and changes in process, center locations, personnel assignments, etc.
  - Supply distribution - maps, banners, posters, blank ROE forms, etc. and collection of completed ROEs
- Every evening, RE personnel phoned in the number of ROEs collected BY PARISH to RE in the LA-RFO, which were recorded in a spreadsheet and emailed the next morning to Roofing PRT as official count.

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# Staffing

- **RE reviewed the volume for each center daily and determined staff assignments for the next day, trying to ensure we had enough people in the centers to meet demand.**
- **Administrative support contract worked jointly with Roofing PRT (capacity ~ 100)**
  - **Supplemented Corps RE staff in the centers with contract personnel.**
  - **We also used these personnel in the Call-In Center, located in the LA-RFO.**

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# ROE Call Center

- At the LA-RFO a call center was set up to take calls from those individuals who evacuated from LA and were unable to go to an ROE Collection Center
- The Call Center was staffed by Realty Specialists, Volunteer Firemen, and eventually contracted to local temporary agencies who provided administrative assistance

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# ROE Call Center

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Jim Poque photo

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# Blue Roofs

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# Blue Roofs

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# Blue Roof

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# Blue Roof

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# Quarter Boats

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# Quarter Boats

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# Tent City

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# Questions?